

# 2019

## Annual report





Center for Girls is located and operates in Chiang Rai province in northern Thailand. Chiang Khong is a border town situated along the Mekong River in close proximity to the infamous Golden Triangle area where Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand meet.

**Above:** Vendors unload their products from boats in the Mekong River and community members gather to shop for goods and food at the Jam Pong market. This is a popular market where Center for Girls regularly goes to distribute information and brochures, raise awareness about human trafficking and possible warning signs, and connect with and answer questions from the community.

Center for Girls was founded in 1997 to create a safe space for girls and take action against widespread gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation.

More than two decades later, Center for Girls continues to fight tirelessly for the rights and safety of women and children.

**M**ission: Center for Girls' mission is to work within the Chiang Rai Province to empower women and children, reduce instances of gender-based violence (GBV), and educate the populace about human trafficking issues. CFG seeks to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and all forms of abuse against children. We are committed to creating sustainable, participatory projects that equip people in the surrounding communities with the necessary life skills to become independent

leaders who strive towards human rights for all, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status.

**F**ounded in 1997, Center for Girls has made a profound, positive impact on the lives of hundreds of women and girls. CFG remains deeply rooted in the communities we serve, and through our participatory approach and our strong partnerships and networks we strive to continue this impact for decades to come.



Looking back on 2019, I am very proud of all Center for Girls (CFG) has accomplished this year, and throughout our 22 year history.

In 2019 we continued implementing impactful programs throughout northern Thailand that assist and empower those most vulnerable in our communities; we trained more watchdogs to identify and appropriately intervene when violence against women and children, human trafficking, and other forms of exploitation occur; and our Emergency Case list has continued to grow, demonstrating that people have been empowered and educated on how to report cases and view CFG as a trusted resource equipped to handle incredibly challenging and sensitive situations.

One of these emergency cases was that of a 13 year old girl whose parents arranged an engagement and intended marriage for her with a 53 year old man against her will. CFG and our partners were relentless in our pursuit of justice and a better future for her. I am proud we successfully fought for this young woman's rights and ability to have a brighter future and happy to report that she is now safe and attending school. This case highlights a significant challenge we consistently face as many in Thailand – officials and community leaders not necessarily withstanding – often believe child marriage is a family matter and a cultural phenomenon among certain ethnic minority groups with little need or place to intervene. It is difficult to change this mindset, but we are seeing a shift. Just a few years ago, forced child marriages would go unreported and ignored by many in the community but now, cases are being reported to CFG. Through our work community members


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have gained awareness, feel responsible for the wellbeing of young women in their communities, and are empowered to join the fight for the rights of women and children. They have our phone number, our address, and know that we will help them. These are the slow, but steady changes that make our work so important.

Despite our many successes, 2019 was not a year without bumps in the road. We have continued to build our KNH-supported program to prevent human trafficking in Chiang Khong which includes a strong network of local business owners but learned some business owners are not interested in joining the network because they do not believe human trafficking happens here. It is, and always has been, a challenge to raise awareness about the negative, unlawful things happening in our own communities. Many would prefer to turn a blind eye but with every day that passes, with every campaign and project implemented, CFG educates more and more people about the issues we face in Chiang Khong and how we can work together to solve them.

In the coming year, we will continue to give knowledge and skills to community members through our programs. In 2020, we look forward to working directly with ethnic minority girls in Rim Khong sub-district vulnerable to child marriage. We will work with their parents, families, and friends to inform them about the consequences of forced marriage, children's rights and protections, and the benefits and value in fully educating female children instead. CFG will continue to expand our impact, grow our networks, and touch more community members with our work – the work that would not be possible without the incredible support we receive from our donors and partners. We are so grateful for these partnerships and look forward to many more years of working together.

**Nunnaree Luangmoi**  
Founder and Director  
Center for Girls



**Above:** Center for Girls' founder and director, Nunnaree Luangmoi has dedicated her life to defending the rights of women and children in her community by fighting to end human trafficking and gender-based violence in northern Thailand.



# Our Impact

2019 was a busy year at Center for Girls! We are grateful for strong partnerships with businesses and other organizations in our community, and continued support from our incredible donors. Together, we were able to continue to make a positive, sustainable impact in our community and improve the lives of countless women and children.



## Empowering Communities to Eliminate Human Trafficking

UN Women

**Goal** | To address, prevent, assist in cases, and raise awareness around cases of human trafficking and gender-based violence amongst local leaders and community members in northern Thailand.

**Project** | In 2019, CFG held four capacity building trainings for women and community members in Chiang Khong. Additionally, CFG organized

and conducted two major, community-wide awareness-raising outreach campaigns which were very well attended and successful. We established coordination centers to allow community members to easily access resources and available services, and act as a referral and counselling center.

**Impact** | 15,000 people in 102 villages across seven sub-

districts were reached with informational materials such as stickers and calendars promoting channels for reporting violence and human trafficking, including providing hotline phone numbers. A network of 120 female community leaders is thriving and actively reporting emergency and urgent cases (58 in 2019) to CFG.



**Top left:** Women from the Chiang Khong area participate in an anti-trafficking and women's empowerment workshop sponsored by UN Women.

**Top right:** Tuk-tuk drivers help fight human trafficking in northern Thailand by posting information in their vehicles that share warning signs and resources for victims and those at risk.

## Program for the Prevention of Child Trafficking and Child Abuse

Kindernothilfe

**Goal** | To support children and adolescents to have the capability and self-determination to choose jobs in businesses and sectors that are free from commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

**Project** | This year, CFG worked with both children and their parents in multiple villages and in schools to help educate them about human trafficking, CSEC, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and safe migration.

CFG executed awareness raising campaigns that promoted appropriate resources and hotline information to report cases of and seek help for incidences of human trafficking and CSEC. CFG also worked with local businesses and business networks from high-risk industries including hotels, restaurants and bars, and transportation.

**Impact** | In 2019, CFG reached 562 individuals through this

program! This included 77 male and 142 female children, 19 male and 42 female parents/guardians, 88 male and 64 female business owners, 4 male and 40 female staff in local businesses, 8 male and 2 female leaders, and worked with a multidisciplinary team made up of 2 male and 14 female immigration and police officers, hospital staff, legal professionals, local NGOs, government officials, and social workers.

## Emergency Cases

New England International Donors and individual donors through <https://tinyurl.com/CFGdonate>

**Goal** | To respond to, follow up on, and provide aftercare services for cases referred through our network and community. We assist women, children, and other vulnerable populations who are experiencing emergency situations or are at risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, or child labor.

**Project** | When cases are reported our team works quickly, with confidentiality and empathy. CFG provides counselling, legal support, education, housing/shelter, assistance seeking medical care (including mental health), help filing reports, medicine, food, clothing, and supplies, and financial support.

**Impact** | To respond to, follow up on, and provide aftercare services for cases referred through our network and community. We assist women, children, and other vulnerable populations who experience emergency situations or are at risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, or child labor.





**Top:** Patchareerat Bunrat (or Ploysai as her friends and colleagues know her!) leads an interactive activity during a Women for Change workshop.  
**Bottom:** The Women for Change network and Center for Girls come together on November 25, 2019 - the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

# Women for Change

Diakonia

**Goal** | To reduce gender-based violence in all seven Chiang Khong's sub-districts; to empower and equip women to become leaders in their communities; and establish a strong, active network of women who are leaders, act as resources for others, and report and assist with cases.

**Project** | Women for Change empowers women in five Chiang

Khong sub-districts, Sathan, Huay So, Wiang, Rim Khong, and Sri Don Chai by increasing knowledge and awareness of gender equality and women's rights. We work to build confidence in the collective power women have to make positive changes in their own lives and their communities and equip them with leadership skills to make it happen.

**Impact** | The Women for Change network is 204 women strong! Members of the Women for Change network reported an incredible 56.9% of the 58 emergency cases received by CFG in 2019, demonstrating this program is building trust and awareness within communities, and that participants know their rights and also where to turn for assistance.

**Right:** Center for Girls facilitates interactive group activities during a Child Protection in Schools workshop focused on educating students about internet safety, sexual abuse and violence, substance abuse and addiction, emergency situations, and children's rights.



# Child Protection in Schools

Global Fund for Children

**Goal** | To teach children and adolescents essential, life-long safety skills, enhance their self-esteem, and learn how to protect themselves and others from many different forms of abuse including online exploitation, human trafficking, and many forms of violence.

**Project** | CFG worked closely with school teachers and conducted

trainings that covered five key topics: internet safety, sexual abuse and violence, substance abuse and addiction, emergency situations, and children's rights. Schools that participated in these trainings included Mae Or School, Banpotwittaya School, and Thungnanoi School. CFG also conducted trainings for teachers on these same topics, empowering them with the

information and tools needed to teach their students about these issues and topics, furthering the impact and reach of the program.

**Impact** | In 2019, we reached 293 students in grades 4 through 6 with at least one in-school workshop, with 159 students attending additional trainings. 24 teachers were also trained by CFG through this program.





# 2019 in Review

jan

We kicked off the year with a huge **campaign to fight human trafficking and violence against women and children**. CFG, Women for Change participants, school children, the local community, hospital volunteers all came together to make this a success.

feb

**Women for Change** participants from Sri Don Chai gather to learn about gender-based violence, leadership, women's rights and national law, build skills for giving basic counselling and assistance, and practice these skills through roleplay activities.

mar

Each year, CFG celebrates **International Women's Day** with a district-wide campaign bringing together the community, multi-disciplinary teams, families, NGO partners, and all CFG program participants.

apr

We hosted the first of a three-part workshop series for the **Chiang Khong Businesses Against Human Trafficking network**. Members discussed human trafficking and its causes, child labor, the law, and resources for reporting cases and seeking help.

may

In Huai Yen village, CFG spoke with children and their parents/guardians and facilitated conversations on difficult to discuss topics including: **school drop-out rates** (including causes), **social media safety**, and **teenage pregnancy**.

jun

CFG hosted a much anticipated **soap making class** where women learned to make homemade, natural soaps they can use for their families and sell as an income-generating activity. To reduce waste, soaps are sold with minimal packaging and local stores offer refilling stations making this training great for **income generation, sustainability, and the environment!**

jul

CFG partnered with sister organization Kiang Rim Khong to conduct a workshop for students in Sri Don Chai on **consent, safe sex practices and pregnancy prevention**, and **physical transformations** that occur during puberty.

aug

With funding from Kindernothilfe and Global Fund for Children, CFG directed and produced **a short film on child marriage** and it premiered in August!

sep

Our partner and friend Chitrapon Vanaspong conducted a series of trainings sponsored by **UN Women**, where **female leaders from 108 villages** discussed challenges and strategies to address violence against women at the **grassroots level**.

oct

CFG joined 4,000 advocates, organizations, and leaders at the **Key Community Actors Summit: Enhancing Population** focused on strengthening local communities and improving quality of life and health for all.

nov

On **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** CFG held a district-wide event where bringing the community together to campaign to put a stop to gender-based violence.

dec

We ended the year with a successful anti-trafficking committee meeting with **tuk tuk drivers** who learned how to **identify and assist victims or potential victims of human trafficking and report cases**. They hung posters and information in their vehicles to raise awareness about resources available to those impacted by trafficking.



## Stories

“What I love about Center for Girls and Nunnaree’s approach as its leader is the way they think about impact in a humble way – they recognize that no one can single-handedly change the world, and working creatively with other groups and leaders can make change faster and more effective.”

Kulsoom Khan  
Regional Program Director for Asia  
Global Fund for Children



**Above:** Women participate in a small group activity during a workshop attended by women from villages through Chiang Khong to learn more about their rights, the law, and to gain confidence to speak up for themselves and others against injustices and gender-based violence that occurs in their communities.



**KELSI YOUNG**  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR

In 2017, I came to Center for Girls by chance, and when I left I knew that I would come back someday. Nunnaree is the kind of woman who puts everyone else’s needs before her own. She consistently does everything in her power to help the people in her community in any way that she can. Ploysai, Void, and Aoy work tirelessly connecting with the community and taking care of the logistics of the organization. Center for Girls gives voices to those that cannot speak out. When I returned to CFG, I was in awe of how much it had grown in the years since I left. The CFG family has accomplished so much this year, and I look forward to continuing to be a part of the team in the years to come.



**MR. THUNWA LIAMPHAN**  
CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL  
CULTURE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOTEL  
ASSOCIATION IN CHIANG  
KHONG

I first became involved with Center for Girls when I came back to my hometown of Chiang Khong to open my own hotel. I became involved with Center for Girls because I feel that any form of human trafficking and child exploitation is immoral. It is not something that I want my home to be known for. Because Chiang Khong is on the border with Laos, it has been a hot spot for this kind of illegal activity, but I have felt a



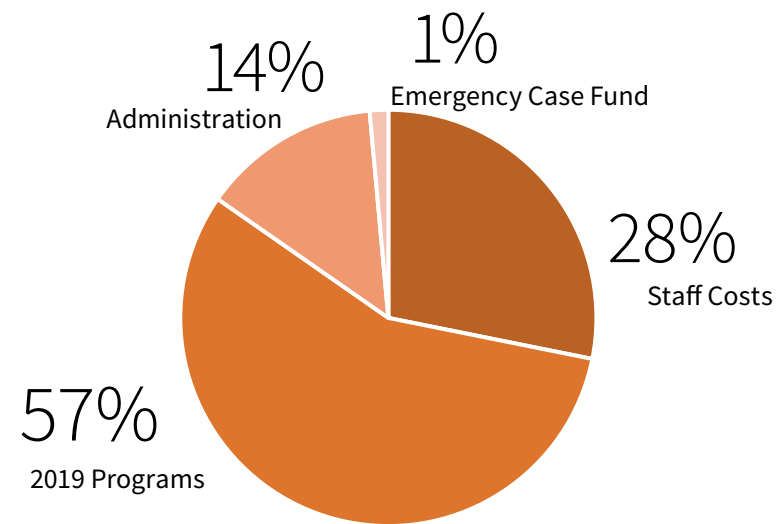
**MS. ALISA NUALSAI**  
CHAIRPERSON OF CHIANG  
KHONG RESTAURANTS  
ASSOCIATION

The Association has worked with Center for Girls to raise awareness and has conducted workshops providing information about the issues of human trafficking, labor exploitation, and applicable laws. These workshops have helped the association’s members understand what should and should not be done when they hire employees and encounter suspected human trafficking or child abuse cases. They also received information about laws and penalties for hiring underaged workers or exploiting foreign workers – particularly migrant workers and those who belong to ethnic minority groups. Our 59 members are now willing and capable to comply with the labor protection law. Restaurant owners who are association members do not hire employees younger than 18 years old now. After working closely with CFG, I have also learned a lot about other issues affecting women and children while I observe CFG working to help the girls and women in need. I am now involved in other CFG activities and have been part of Women for Change and joined in other campaigns in Chiang Khong.

change in the community since Center for Girls became involved here. People are much more aware of the issues surrounding human trafficking, as well as what is and isn’t acceptable. In the past, some people would ask the hotel owners if there are any prostitutes available, but now there is no one to ask because most of us are involved with Center for Girls. The work they are doing is very important for our community and I am happy to be a part of the team.



## Words from our community



This year, CFC's total income was (THB)

3,511,536.<sup>93</sup>

and total expenditure was (THB)

3,481,428.<sup>84</sup>

*"When I attended the first training, I remember sitting and listening only. I was scared and didn't express my opinions because I thought it would be like previous trainings from organizations that came only for a short time and never came again. Training with Center for Girls felt different. It felt nice to share my feelings. Because of the trainings I know about children's rights, human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, and how to protect myself. Center for Girls came often, giving me the skills to express and present my opinions. I even acted in a short film about child brides that Center for Girls produced to educate children about rights and childhood marriages. I have more knowledge and understanding of children's rights. My thoughts have changed. I want to say thank you to Center for Girls for supporting children to be leaders and help others in the community, and for giving children knowledge of their own rights."*

*"Every day, I am happy I live close to school and I am a boy. Because of this, I have to worry less about dangers on the way to school than some of my classmates. Currently, I live with my parents and grandparents. My father cannot work because he is sick so my mother works in order for me and my brother to go to school. Going to school provides so many lessons for me such as Math, Science, and social skills but also learning about child rights and how to stay safe from harassment and abuse. CFG's workshop taught me about social media safety and how to protect myself from sexual abuse, which are topics that are helpful and also interesting to me. This workshop did not only give me knowledge, but I've also gotten to join the networks of students and teachers from other schools. I really enjoy this activity and I hope I can participate every year."*

*"I am a 13-year-old child ... my parents tried to find work where they could, while I took care of my younger siblings. I wanted to continue school as long as possible, but my family was struggling financially. This was my dream as long as I can remember. I attended a CFG activity with elders in the school and village. They taught me about children's rights and helping children live safely. I began to have hope. One day, I heard my parents discussing that they will make me marry a man older than my mother. I was so afraid. I wondered what I should do, or who will help me. I told my best friend and we decided I should write a letter, and my story reached CFG. They gave me hope once again and I decided to walk away from my family and pursue my dream of continuing my education. I do not need to be a child bride even though my parents disagree with my decisions. I would like to thank CFG who continues to guide and help me."*

*"When I was sexually abused, I was so blind I didn't know what to do. I only wanted to die so I did not have to feel anything, to hear anything. I was lucky my sister told me we could turn to Center for Girls for help, and sought a solution together. I then came to my senses and realized I should fight for and protect my rights."*

Thank you to our partners for your continued support



# Take Action



## donate

Make a donation TODAY to help families in desperate need.



## Volunteer

Consider volunteering at Center for Girls – motivated, enthusiastic individuals willing to learn and help are always welcome!



## educate

Educate yourself and others on issues like human trafficking and gender-based violence that millions of people around the world face on a daily basis.

<http://center4girls.org>

Please share to your networks and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more up to date info



@cfgthailand



@centerforgirls



/centerforgirls.maeor

